



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 2014

Dear Resident:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board are continuing to direct an environmental study in Mountain View in connection with the former Teledyne Semiconductor and former Spectra-Physics Lasers facilities located at 1300 Terra Bella Avenue and 1250 Middlefield Road. The purpose of the study is to determine if certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are migrating as vapors from groundwater into the indoor air of nearby buildings (vapor intrusion). **As a precaution, EPA would like your permission to test the air inside your home to determine if there is a buildup of VOCs. There is no cost to you for this testing.** This study is being conducted as part of the long-term cleanup activities at the former facility.

The Responsible Party (RP) for the site has been conducting an aggressive bioremediation as part of the groundwater cleanup, and levels of trichloroethene (TCE) are declining significantly in the groundwater in your neighborhood. Please be aware that your drinking water is not affected by this contamination. Your water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada, not from groundwater in this area. Although results from previous indoor air testing in homes in this neighborhood showed very little vapor intrusion, some areas still remain where TCE is present in groundwater, and so we would like to sample those homes we were unable to test previously. This past year EPA also lowered its protective levels for TCE, and because vapor intrusion can vary throughout the year, we would like to sample homes in our study area during the colder months (January-February) when there is a greater potential for vapor intrusion, to confirm that the new lower levels for TCE are not being exceeded.

VOCs are chemicals that are contained in products commonly used in industry and often around the home. They can be present in both indoor and outdoor air, especially in urban environments like Santa Clara County. Products containing VOCs that you might be familiar with are paints, paint strippers, cleaning supplies and permanent markers. VOCs can move as gases from groundwater through soil under certain conditions. If vapors move under a home or other building, it is possible for them to come up and accumulate inside. If this happens, and if the levels of VOCs are high and prolonged enough, it can create a health hazard for residents.

The process for testing for VOCs in indoor air involves placing a sampling device in your home that takes in air over a 24-hour to 2-week period. EPA prefers to use the 2-week sampler, but can work with you if you prefer a shorter sampling time. A sampling technician will then pick up the device and send it to a laboratory for analysis. EPA will notify you of the results within a few weeks after the testing. Should VOCs be found in your home at levels exceeding EPA's health protective screening levels, a mitigation system will be designed for your home and EPA will coordinate the installation with you and answer any questions you may have. The design and installation of such a system would all be completed at no cost to you.

If you would like your home sampled, please contact me at (415) 972-3050 or by e-mail to morash.melanie@epa.gov so that I can arrange for the sampling. Please leave your name, telephone number, mailing address and/or e-mail address and the best time to reach you. **Again, there is no cost to you for this sampling.** We would greatly appreciate your cooperation. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Melanie Morash, Remedial Project Manager